SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 6th and Tuesday, 9th **GET TO KNOW A TREE** – We will look, touch, listen and smell trees around the Preserve - watching out for poison ivy. Trees offer a fun and surprising look at what natural treasures you can find almost anywhere if you take the time to slow down, look closely and enjoy!

Tuesday, 30th   **POND HABITAT AT HAYS –** In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming sets the theme for this session as we talk about the amazing things we can find in ponds. Bar Lake is conveniently across from the playground so with the help of microscopes and magnifying glasses we will take a close look and see what we discover.

OCTOBER

Saturday, 4th and Tuesday, 7th **A LEAF SHAPE ADVENTURE –** Fall is a nice time of year to look closely at leaves, especially if they are showing their true colors. We'll collect and observe the different shapes and types at Hays. Leaf rubbings are a super way to see the differences and make for a nice piece of art!

Tuesday 28th **SQUIRRELS –** Let's learn about squirrels – read about, look for and make a craft about squirrels.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 1st and Tuesday, 4th **YOUR VERY OWN STORY –** We'll read stories about living, working and playing in nature. Then each child will use their imaginations and what they know about nature to create their own story.

Tuesday, 25th **OWLS –** Today will focus on the special bird – owl. We will discuss fun facts about owls, read The Christmas Owl and make an owl craft. We'll also have fun with our resident owl puppet and learn if the owl's head turns 360 degrees or not.

DECEMBER

Saturday, 6th and Tuesday, 9th **YOUR SPECIAL PATH –** We will read books about special paths and then take a short hike letting our senses go wild! As we explore Hays Nature Preserve children will draw maps or pictures of the sights that they see as it leads them to a hidden treasure.

JANUARY

Saturday, 3rd and Tuesday, 6th **ANIMAL SIGNS -** There are many species of animals that live in Hays Nature Preserve. Whether they walk, swim or fly, come have fun as we learn all about these amazing creatures. Compare footprints and see if you can match the animal to its print. A walk along our footprint trail will be in order!

Tuesday, 27th **ANIMAL HOMES –** We will explore areas of the Preserve to find where animals live and how they make their homes.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 3rd **GROUNDHOGS** – What is Groundhog Day? What is a groundhog? Did he see his shadow? So much to learn and read about this first week of February!

Saturday, 7th and Tuesday, 10th **AMAZING SEEDS –** We will learn the different parts of seeds. By examining different types of seeds we will see that seeds come in many shapes and sizes. The seeds we eat and the ones we don't.

MARCH

Tuesday, 3rd **SHAPES IN NATURE** - Familiar shapes can be found everywhere in nature --- stars, circles even letters! We will go on a shape hunt with a journal in hand so we can recount the shapes we find. A fun activity using pipe cleaners should be interesting as we try to recreate shapes!

Saturday, 7th and Tuesday 10th **TEXTURE ADVENTURE -** Examining textures in nature involves our senses of sight and touch. We will have fun finding many of the different textures at Hays Nature Preserve, identifying their patterns and making an area map using rubbings as landmarks.